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## U. S. IS NEAR WAR, LANSING GIVES AS REASON FOR NOTE

Invasion of Rights Makes Situation of Neutral Power Intolerable, Wilson Says, in Demand for Showdown.

## NATIONS ON BOTH SIDES TO BLAME

German Peace Proposal and Lloyd-George's Speech Do Not Influence Decision, Secretary Declares.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21. — Plainly hinting that there is danger of the United States being drawn into war, Secretary of State Lansing this afternoon said this was the real reason behind the message of President Wilson to the belligerents. In this message President Wilson asked each country to state its reasons for urging and carrying on the war.

"The situation of the United States as a neutral is rapidly becoming intolerable," Secretary Lansing said. "Therefore, President Wilson has demanded a showdown. Wilson's note was dispatched to the warring powers last night.

Lansing said that foreign matters could not continue to go on much longer as they have and that the nation "has been drawn near to the verge of war." The Secretary of State authorized the following statement as to the real purposes behind the note.

Says U. S. Rights Are Invaded.

"The rights of the United States have been invaded, and the situation has become so intolerable that it cannot continue long. More and more, the rights of this nation are being invaded by belligerents, on both sides, so that the situation is becoming more and more critical. We are near the verge of war and must know how each belligerent stands in order to regulate our conduct in the future.

"It was not our material interests that were considered when we said that the situation might become intolerable. We have prospered by the war, but our rights have been invaded."

Lansing emphasized positively that the German peace proposal and Lloyd-George's speech had nothing to do with the dispatching of Wilson's note. On this point he authorized the following quotation:

"Peace Overtures No Factor."

"No nation has been sounded on this matter, and we did not know in advance what Lloyd-George would say. There was no consideration of the German overtures or the speech of the British premier in connection with the formation of this note. The only thing the German overtures did was to delay the note a few days.

"It was not fully decided to send the note until last Monday. The difficulty that faced the President was that the note might be construed as a movement for peace and as an aid to the German peace proposal."

The Secretary specifically denied that that was a factor in the communication itself.

No Change in Neutrality.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The United States is not considering any change in its policy of neutrality toward the belligerent nations, Secretary of State Lansing declared today in a formal statement which is explained, supplementing one he made earlier in the day. He said he made the new statement because his first statement appeared subject to various interpretations he did not mean to imply. Regarding the note to the belligerents, the Secretary of State said: "It might be necessary to send a supplementary or explanatory note to the belligerents if it is found that its misconstruction is general."

The official copy of Lansing's second statement said:

"I have learned from several quarters that a wrong impression was made by the statement I made earlier and I wish to correct that impression. "I am going to suggest every direct and necessary interest which this country has in the possible peace terms which the belligerents have in mind and I did not intend to intimate that the government was considering any change in its policy of neutrality, which it has consistently pursued in

## THE CALENDAR

Dec. 21.—Christmas holidays begin at 4:30 o'clock Thursday afternoon.  
Jan. 1-5.—Farmers' Week.  
Jan. 3.—Christmas holidays end at 8 a. m. Wednesday.  
Jan. 9.—Columbia U. D. C. memorial musical in honor of the birthday of Robert E. Lee.  
Jan. 12.—Basketball, Missouri vs. Ames.  
Jan. 17.—Glee Club opening concert, University Auditorium.

the face of continually increasing differences."

Lansing was asked: "Does that still stand?" "Why certainly," he replied, "the second note would be unintelligible without the first."

When asked if his visit to the President this afternoon had anything to do with the issuance of the second statement he referred his questioner to the President.

## Note to Belligerents Undisclosed.

By United Press

LONDON, Dec. 21.—President Wilson's message to the belligerents had not been released for publication here up to 6 o'clock this afternoon. The note has been received at the British

Help

Fill

A

Raggedy

Stocking

This

Christmas

Foreign Office, but its contents remained undisclosed at that time. It is apparent from the foregoing dispatch that the British censor held up all press dispatches from the United States regarding the message. Several diplomats of the warring nations called on Secretary Lansing, presumably to discuss the Wilson message. Lansing delivered a printed copy of the note to each, but did not give the explanation of the contents that was given to the press.

## "On Crest of Volcano," Says Kahn.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—When informed of Secretary Lansing's declaration that the United States is in an "intolerable condition," Representative Kahn of California, a member of the House Military Committee, arose and said: "Gentlemen of the committee, make haste. Our country is on the crest of a volcano."

## Note Causes "Intense Indignation."

By United Press

NEW YORK, Dec. 21. — A private message received here this afternoon states that men high in British government circles have "openly expressed most intense indignation at the action of President Wilson in addressing the peace message to the belligerents." This attitude may be responsible for the action of the British government in refusing to permit the publication of the President's note tonight.

## Allies to Send Reply in 48 Hours.

By United Press

LONDON, Dec. 21.—England and her Allies probably will answer the German peace note within the next forty-eight hours. The same reply will be handed by each of the Entente Powers to the Central Powers through the diplomats of neutral nations acting as intermediaries.

## NOTE CAUSES FALL IN WHEAT

By United Press

Stock Market Too, Breaks From Two to Fifteen Points Today.

By United Press

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—Wheat dropped six points today when the Exchange opened. This was a result of President Wilson's peace note. The stock market broke from two to fifteen points as bears and speculators, frightened by the prospects of international complications, dropped their stock on the market upon receipt of the news.

## H. C. L. NO PROBLEM WITH HIM

By United Press

Professor Shoots Rabbit For Breakfast From Window At Home.

Here is a new method of combating the food problem—an interesting combination of Pilgrim day atmosphere with twentieth century environment.

O. R. Johnson, associate professor in the College of Agriculture, glanced out of a window at his home, 210 South Edgewood avenue, the other night, and saw a rabbit. With no waste of time he loaded a gun, opened the window, fired—and there lay the rabbit. The game was brought in, dressed, and served for breakfast the following morning.

## SHOPPERS IN COLUMBIA



## THE WEATHER

For Columbia and vicinity: Partly cloudy tonight and Friday; not quite so cold Friday. The lowest temperature tonight near zero.

For Missouri: Partly cloudy tonight and Friday; not so cold Friday and west and extreme north portions tonight.

The cold wave has not yet reached the East Gulf and South Atlantic states but it covers practically all the rest of the country.

In the upper reaches of the Mississippi and Missouri drainage areas temperatures range between 20 and 30 degrees below zero; and the zero line extends into Missouri and thence southwest through Oklahoma to Northwest Texas, while the freezing line of 32 degrees runs southward to San Antonio.

A low pressure wave of considerable development is approaching the North Pacific Coast, and the weather there has begun to moderate, with rain.

Precipitation fell during the past twenty-four hours in a comparatively narrow belt reaching from the Rocky Mountains east across Kansas and Missouri to the Atlantic Ocean.

In Columbia generally fair weather is indicated for the next two or three days; and it will moderate slowly beginning with Friday afternoon.

Local Data.

The highest temperature in Columbia yesterday was 14, and the lowest last night was 2; precipitation, 0.00; relative humidity 2 p. m., yesterday, 68 per cent. A year ago yesterday the highest temperature was 44, and the lowest 24; precipitation, .30.

The Almanac.

Sun rose today, 7:25 a. m. Sun sets, 4:50 p. m.

Moon rises 3:33 a. m.

The Temperatures Today.

7 a. m. — 2 11 a. m. — 3

8 a. m. — 1 12 m. — 4

9 a. m. — 1 1 p. m. — 6

10 a. m. — 3 2 p. m. — 7

## NO DINNER FOR 15 FAMILIES

Mrs. W. T. Stephenson Finds Christmas Baskets Won't Go Around.

There are about fifteen families in Columbia that will have no Christmas dinner unless someone responds to the call for Christmas baskets. Mrs. W. T. Stephenson, who has charge of the distribution of these baskets, has not enough to go around. She has made thorough investigation and finds that there are still some fifteen families not yet provided with baskets. Mrs. Stephenson asks anyone wishing to contribute a basket to telephone her at number 539.

## RED CROSS SEAL CAMPAIGN ON

Chi Omega Girls Sell \$8.25 Worth in a Single Afternoon.

The sale of Red Cross Christmas seals by the Chi Omega sorority yesterday afternoon amounted to \$8.25. This afternoon the young women of the Christian Endeavor of the Christian Church had charge of the sale, and tomorrow afternoon the young women of the Boardway Methodist Church will conduct the campaign. The P. E. O. will be in charge Saturday afternoon.

## Episcopal Services Christmas.

The Episcopal Church will have one service at 9:30 o'clock Christmas Day. Instead of the regular evening service next Sunday a festival will be held at 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon by the Sunday school. There will be a Christmas tree and a special service at the festival.

## SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS IS COMMERCIALIZED---HART

"We are keeping Christmas Day alive for the sake of gain; we are capitalizing religion for the sake of commerce," said Rev. Madison A. Hart in his address at the luncheon of the Commercial Club today.

"The Grand Canon," continued the speaker, "is probably the greatest natural wonder in the world. The great wound in mother earth is made by the Colorado river as it flows through the limestone at a speed of 25 miles an hour to its terminus. It would take a downpour of water like that which lifted the ark to raise this river out of its channel. The average business man is wearing for himself a channel which it will be very difficult for him to get out of."

There are men, continued the speaker, who have their attention focused day after day on their business, who know Sunday from no other day of the week, and whose lives are an endless routine of work.

"If there isn't something to lift us out of this deep channel," declared Mr. Hart, "then we are in a pitiable condition. Such men must have some lifting power from above or a tremendous explosive within. The spirit of Christmas is such an explosive."

"We think of Christmas too largely in terms of what we do for others. I wonder if it does not do far more for us than for those whom we help. I wonder if the spirit is not too much that of charity. We are likely to commercialize the Christmas giving too much to realize ourselves the spirit which makes life worth living for all of us."

"There is another element that we are in danger of overlooking. The matter of justice should be stressed more. If there were more of justice in the world, there would be less need of charity."

"At the federal council in St. Louis

recently, between 30 and 40 religious bodies met together, with seventeen and a fourth million protestant people being represented. A committee was named on International Peace and Arbitration. It was felt that this name was not inclusive enough, that it did not represent what the committee stood for. The name was suggested the 'committee on good will and justice,' but to this name also objections were raised. Finally the committee was named by unanimous agreement, the 'committee on international justice and good will.'

"It is easier to be charitable than to be just—to dole out the crumbs which fall from our tables than to be square and fair with our fellow beings."

The high cost of living comes partly because of your spending and my spending. The corners on food stuffs, too, mean that we are not big enough as a people to demand justice between one another and the public."

"We must win the battles of justice in this country; we must look to the day when there can be no corners. And, please God, the day is coming when it will be held just as criminal to get a corner on food stuffs as to take a stillnet and go out and take someone's life."

"It is a false philosophy of art for art's sake, music for music's sake, or business for business's sake. We are all here for man's sake and for God's sake. The Christmas spirit is one of the grandest virtues of mankind. The Wise Men did more for themselves than they did for the Babe; they lifted themselves by their loving kindness and their serving."

"The Christmas spirit is the spirit of Almighty God speaking to you and me, to lift us out of the sordidness and drudgery, into the larger life of love, service and understanding of our fellow men."

## DOWNTOWN ROBBER STEALS HAT

Miss E. L. Shepard Had Left Bundle in Store Doorway.

A grey velvet turban hat valued at \$7.50 was taken from the doorway of Miss E. L. Shepard's Millinery store, 18 South Ninth street, at 8:15 o'clock this morning.

Miss Shepard had a number of bundles in her hands and had to lay the hat down to open the door. She carried her bundles to the rear of the store and was there but a few minutes when she remembered she had left the hat in the doorway. It was gone when she went back to the door. Miss Hutsell, her assistant, came in immediately after Miss Shepard opened the store, but did not see the hat.

## Lyle and Jones to Attend Convention.

Homer Lyle and Scarritt Jones will represent the local chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at their sixtieth biennial National Convention, to be held at Pittsburgh, Pa., beginning December 26, and lasting four days. The absolute abolishing of all drinking and gambling in the Chapter Houses is one of the important questions to be taken up by the National Board.

## Benton Mothers' Club to Meet.

The Mothers' Club of the Benton School will hold their monthly meeting at 1:30 o'clock Friday afternoon at the school building. A Christmas program will be given by the children.

## 2 MORE ROBBERIES BAFFLE THE POLICE

Alpha Delta Pi and Delta Tau Houses Entered Last Night.

## ONE ARREST MADE

But Negro's Shoe Didn't Fit Snowprint and He Is Released.

Last Night's Robberies.  
At the Alpha Delta Pi sorority house, 414 Hitt street:  
From Miss Catherine Todd, a sorority pin, rings, brooch, bracelet, \$50  
Miss Catherine Todd, \$4 in bills; rings, bracelet and lavallier, total \$15  
Miss Beadie Buckridge, fountain pen, \$5, and spectacles, total value \$17.50  
Miss Margaret Gustin, small change and fountain pen \$5  
At the Delta Tau Delta fraternity house, Maryland and Kentucky avenues:  
From Alex S. Allen \$27  
Paul R. Witmer \$24  
Donald M. Ewing \$10

Tuesday Afternoon.  
Edwin L. ("Bunny") Morris, 809 Rollins street, suit of clothes \$35  
Laundry bag, containing six shirts, four of them silk; four suits of underwear, a dozen collars, a dozen handkerchiefs, six pairs of silk socks, towels and two pairs of pajamas \$80

Two more robberies were added last night to the series of holdups and burglaries which have since September seemingly baffled the police. Thieves entered the Alpha Delta Pi sorority house, 414 Hitt street, while the members were at dinner and left with \$80 in valuables. The thief carried away articles, which were stolen less than a month ago in the same manner, and which had been returned by the police and identified by the owners.

Some time after 2 o'clock this morning a thief entered a study room on the second floor of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity house, Maryland and Kentucky avenues, and stole \$56 from the clothes of students who live there.

The first arrest following the two robberies last night, one Tuesday, four holdups Saturday night, three robberies just before the Thanksgiving holidays and two of the Phi Beta Phi sorority house, one Saturday night, and the other early in the fall, occurred last night, a negro, whose name would not be given by the police, was arrested and taken to the police station, shortly after the robbery of the Alpha Delta Pi house had been reported.

The negro's shoes were removed and taken to the scene of the robbery where a fresh shoe print was in the snow.

It didn't fit. The negro was released. The thief robbed the Alpha Delta Pi house last night between 6 and 7 o'clock by the same scheme he used three weeks ago. While dinner was being served and the young women were not in their rooms he raised a window on the second floor went through the rooms which had been visited before and left without creating a disturbance.

As on the previous visit, the same persons suffered losses. Miss Katherine Todd losing a bracelet which was taken three weeks ago. Miss Margaret Gustin and Miss Caralee Strook also lost by each of the intruder's visits.

## Three Delta Taus Lose Money.

At the Delta Tau Delta fraternity house \$56 was stolen from the clothes of three students who live there. A. S. Allen lost \$24 P. B. Witmer \$22, and D. M. Ewing \$10. The clothes were in a room on the second floor of the house which is used for a study. Mr. Ewing's clothes were on the fourth floor. Mr. Allen was in the study room until 2 o'clock this morning.

Although a strong box, the property of Mr. Allen, who is treasurer of the fraternity, was tampered with, the robber left the watches and other valuables in the pockets. None of the other rooms seem to have been entered.

Tuesday afternoon the room of Edwin L. ("Bunny") Morris, Tiger half-back, at 809 Rollins street, was ransacked and a suit of clothes, valued at \$35, and a bag of laundry, valued at \$30, was stolen. "Bunny" thought that his suit went to the cleaners Tuesday but a search this morning showed that the suit and the laundry was missing.

"My clothes went to the cleaners all right I guess, and the 'cleaners' did a good job, said "Bunny."

## Disclose Other Robberies.

Two other robberies which occurred just before the Thanksgiving holidays, and which the police insisted be kept quiet, according to Miss Buntin, became known today. One was at the Delta Gamma sorority house, 215 Hitt

(Continued on Page Four).